

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF OLIVER
LEAVITT

HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I rise today to pay tribute to a great Alaskan and dedicated leader of the Artic Slope Regional Corporation, Dr. Oliver Leavitt. Sadly, Oliver passed away earlier this year on January 9, 2023, at the age of 79 in his lifetime hometown, Utqiagvik. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as the entire Artic Slope community.

Dr. Leavitt was a long-time Iñupiat public servant who held innumerable leadership positions on the North Slope and across Alaska. In 1971 he played a key role in the Alaska Native lands claims fight and was a significant contributor to the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). His wisdom and guidance in establishing the Alaska Native corporation system was monumental and will be recognized for generations to come.

Dr. Oliver Leavitt was elected as the first president of the North Slope Borough Assembly in 1972, a position he held for four years, followed by more than 20 years of service in the Assembly. He also served on the boards of the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Alaska Federation of Natives. As Vice President of Lands and Vice President of Government Affairs for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, he effectively messaged Tribal, economic, and cultural priorities in Washington, D.C. and Juneau. His presence will be forever remembered by policymakers who interacted with him.

While working in Washington, D.C., he was pivotal in passing numerous amendments to ANCSA, improving the law for future generations of Alaska Natives. He also contributed to legislation that authorized development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and allowed for increased economic opportunity for Native corporations across Alaska.

Throughout Dr. Leavitt's lifetime, each success was achieved with the support and love of his family and his community. Oliver's legacy will live on through the community and the continued work they do to advance Alaskan priorities. He will forever be survived in the North Slope Borough and throughout all of Alaska.

Oliver dedicated his life to advancing Alaskan priorities and improving the quality of life for Alaska Native communities. I honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished South Carolina organization for its unwavering commitment to our reserve service members. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office was recently awarded the highest honor given by the United States government to employers who show exemplary support for their National Guard and Reserve employees. Their contributions to these service members deserve our respect and recognition.

The Department of Defense established the Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996. The award honors private and public sector employers that demonstrate a strong commitment to military service through their continued support of enlisted employees. In August of 2022, the Department of Defense announced that the Charleston County Sheriffs Office was one of fifteen recipients of the 2022 Employer Support Freedom Award. Out of over 2,700 nominations, it was one of just four law enforcement agencies across the country to receive this prestigious national award.

The Charleston County Sheriffs office was selected because of its long-standing commitment to their Guard and Reserve members and families. The agency has implemented a Military Support Liaison program to effectively attend to members' needs; provide generous paid leave and retirements benefits; engender a community of support for the families of members on active duty; and privately and publicly recognize members' patriotic service to our state and Nation. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office is proud to employ more than a dozen members of the South Carolina National Guard and Reserve, and I am pleased they are receiving this well-deserved recognition.

South Carolina's Guardsmen and Reservists are unmatched in their service to our state and Nation. These honorable men and women sacrifice time away from their families and civilian careers to prepare for duty, and it is their courage and leadership during crises that ensures our communities remain prosperous and secure. The support provided by civilian employers to these service members is essential to the strength, readiness, and diversity of our Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the outstanding support of our National Guard and Reserve employees by the Charleston County Sheriffs Office. Their actions ought to serve as an example to other organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of service members, their families, and the preparedness of our military. Our great state and Nation are safer as a result of Charleston County Sheriff's Office's commitment to these service members.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF STATE SENATOR STEVE
CASSANO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Connecticut's First District's foremost public servants, State Senator Steve Cassano.

At the beginning of this year, Senator Cassano retired after a prolific four-decade career—serving as Mayor of Manchester for 14 years and in the Connecticut State Senate for more than a decade.

He was a fierce advocate for regional cooperation—helping the influential Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Capitol Region Council of Governments at various times.

Steve understood that our communities are stronger when we work together, and that our region needs a forward-looking plan for the future that serves all residents.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Senator Cassano in each of his roles over the years.

As Mayor, Steve led the Town of Manchester as it transitioned from a mill town to a local hub for business and a retail destination of the Capital Region.

In the State Senate, he led efforts for Connecticut to recover from Hurricane Sandy, the costliest hurricane to ever hit New England.

He capped off a storied career in government with what Steve called his proudest accomplishment—passing historic legislation to ensure adopted children could access their birth records.

I extend my congratulations to Steve Cassano on a career that served our state and region for the better and I commend and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HARRY HOOSIER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to an amazing Black man named Harry Hoosier.

If you're from Indiana, you've likely faced the age-old question:

"So, what exactly is a Hoosier?"

Of course, we've heard theories. Richmond resident John Finley's poem "The Hoosier's Nest"—originally spelled "Hoosher"—is often attributed as the first mention of this distinctly Indiana term. The word also appears in the "Carrier's Address" of the Indiana Democrat on January 3, 1832. Yet another theory is that pioneer settlers would respond, "Who's yere?" to a knock on the door.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

But one of the most interesting theories is one you may not have heard: the story of Harry Hoosier.

Harry Hoosier, sometimes spelled Harry Hosier, was described by Booker T. Washington as “the first Black American Methodist preacher in the United States.” Born enslaved around 1750, Harry Hoosier was sold to a plantation near Baltimore, where he became a talented religious orator who traveled throughout the Appalachian frontier, according to Fisk University Professor William D. Piersen.

Harry Hoosier’s story is one of resilience and success. Despite being illiterate, Mr. Hoosier’s message was heard far and wide, and he became one of the best-known and greatest preachers of his time. According to a recent bill in the Indiana Statehouse, “many of Harry Hoosier’s followers brought their Methodist beliefs and Hoosier nickname to Indiana in the decades before and after Indiana was granted statehood in 1816.”

With his great influence, it is believed that Mr. Hoosier’s followers became known as Hoosiers, followers who were also part of a growing number of Methodists beginning to question the practice of slavery. With a Black leader as an example, these 18th Century “Hoosiers” may have honed the principles we understand as “Hoosier Hospitality” today—the belief in kindness, equality, and respect.

Until recently, I had never heard the story of Harry Hoosier, despite attending school in Indiana and surrounded by strong, Black leaders and family members throughout my lifetime. But Harry Hoosier confirms what we already knew: Black history has always been American history, and Black history has always been Hoosier history. From oral traditions passed down from generation to generation, to the legacy of legends like Madam C.J. Walker, Mari Evans, Major Taylor, Wes Montgomery, the Jackson 5 and Babyface, Black Hoosiers have always been part of our state’s story.

Bringing this story into the light gives us a better understanding of the vast, diverse history of our great state. And during Black History Month, there is no better time to learn our history and to celebrate it.

While there are many partisan arguments surrounding education—including recent political stunts falsely claiming that Black studies has no educational value—Harry Hoosier’s story is slowly making its way into our modern consciousness in a bipartisan way. In 2016, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission endorsed the “Harry Hoosier Project,” an effort to share the story of the man who lives on in our conversations every day. This year, Indiana State Representative J.D. Prescott, a Republican, introduced House Bill 1143 recognizing Harry Hoosier as our state’s namesake. Unfortunately, this bill did not make it to the floor for a vote—but I hope Harry Hoosier’s story inspires others to begin to unwrap more forgotten or neglected stories.

History—the way we tell it, the way we analyze it, and the ways we pass it on to future generations—is always evolving. Our stories have always existed. But these stories need to be shared with everyone, and they need to be recognized as a vital part of American history too.

Harry Hoosier lived centuries ago. We can’t speak to him or even know as many details about his life as we may want to. But his existence, the stories we have of him, are what define our past and shape our future.

Black history is about joy. It’s about survival, resilience, and it’s about success. Above all, it needs to be shared.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB VOSE

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert “Bob” W. Vose, of Springfield, Illinois, who passed away on Monday, January 20, 2023. He was 94 years old.

The son of John and Hedwig Vose, Bob was born on January 29, 1929. He was raised in Springfield alongside his five brothers and six sisters, where he attended Sacred Heart Grade School and Lanphier High School until he chose to serve our country in the United States Army.

Bob was a proud and active citizen, humbly serving his country and community. Bob would marry Virginia in 1953 and raise his six children in the city he loved. He would work for the Illinois Ice Company before becoming a City Water Light and Power meter reader and, eventually, a stationary engineer for the State of Illinois. He was a proud member of IBEW union, organizing with Local 193 for 65 years.

Bob would become the first city alderman elected to represent Ward 5 and continued to be an advocate for his ward and its residents long after his term of service expired. He was a very generous man, donating his time and talents to a great many local causes throughout his entire life. He loved playing the role of Santa Claus at the city recreation department and was a referee and umpire of high school sports for several years. He sponsored the annual Goodwill client Halloween and Christmas parties for 34 years. He was a member of the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation and was very active in fundraising for the cemetery and responsible for Monument Avenue Beautification improvements.

Bob’s statewide claim to fame were his corn dogs. Based on his grandmother’s recipe that he safeguarded, “The Korndog King” would start selling his famous Vose Corn Dogs at the Illinois State Fair in 1967 with his brothers. Eventually, Bob and Virginia would continue Vose Fine Food on the fairgrounds for 50 years and become a fourth-generation family business. The Vose Family Corn Dog stand is a staple of the fair and continues to be an annual tradition.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; wife Virginia; four brothers; and six sisters. He is survived by his 6 children, Robert Vose, Jr., Virginia (Mike) Geiger, Ronald (Marybeth) Vose, Kenneth (Roxann) Vose, Debra Vose and Sandra (Robert) Orr; 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; last brother, Harold (Jean) Vose; and several nieces and nephews.

Robert was an icon of Springfield; one not built from a desire for fame, but one established from his years of service and dedication to the betterment of his community. His absence will leave a large hole within Springfield, and he will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on February 27, 2023 for Roll Call Vote 120 and Roll Call Vote 121. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 120, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 121.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and service of Paul Woods as he celebrated his 100th birthday on February 20, 2023. Along with defying the average lifespan and despite segregation, Paul Woods fought for our democracy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. As we celebrate Black History Month, I think there’s no better example of American courage than Buffalo’s own Paul Woods.

Paul Woods was born in Alabama on February 20, 1923 in an era of racial oppression and segregation. When his father died, he and siblings were split at the gravesite among relatives. Paul Woods promised that he would raise his brother Sherman, and for the rest of his life “Daddy” has been taking care of people.

Paul Woods joined the segregated U.S. Army in 1941 when he was just 17 years old. He often says that “A bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield.” The bravery of Black units overseas belied their second-class status at home and helped lead to the abolition of racial segregation in the military in 1948 as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 2012, Paul and 30 other World War II vets were flown to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. Five years later, Wish of a Lifetime sponsored a trip to Australia where he visited the exact location of his service during World War II and was thanked by the U.S. Consul General. Today he is the World War II Coordinator for the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post 430.

After helping to protect the Philippines, Paul Woods moved to the Buffalo region where he worked 16-hour days at Bethlehem Steel to feed his growing family. From Alabama to Australia, teenage recruit to war hero, and segregated soldier to seeing the first Black president, Paul Woods’ life has spanned continents, a world war, and the fight for racial equality. The father of 15 will turn 100 on February 20, 2023, having seen multiple children and grandchildren serve in the same military his bravery helped to desegregate.

Mr. Speaker, I’m thankful for the chance to honor Paul Woods, a longtime Western New York resident who helped free the Philippines despite enduring injustice at home. A proud member of Prince of Peace Church of God in Christ in Buffalo and husband to the late Mary

T. Woods, Paul Woods' 6'4" stature is dwarfed only by his impact on his family, community, and country.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health pro-

fessionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING MAJ. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski, who is retiring after 38 years of honorable service to the State of Georgia and our Nation.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski retires as the Assistant Adjutant General—Air, Georgia National Guard, and Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard. In his duties and responsibilities, he led the Georgia State Air Guard headquarters team while overseeing a command of more than 2,900 Georgia Air National Guard members serving in two flying wings, seven geographically separated units, and an Air Dominance Center.

General Grabowski joined the Georgia Air National Guard in 1985 as an enlisted Telecommunications Specialist and quickly ascended through the ranks, becoming a commissioned officer in 1994. Over his career, he has commanded at the flight, squadron, and wing levels and closes out his distinguished career as the commanding general of all guard Airmen in the state.

General Grabowski's aviation career includes more than 2,700 flying hours: including more than 1,700 combat hours in the E-8C JSTARS supporting Operations IRAQ1 and ENDURING FREEDOM.

General Grabowski has spent the last 38 years embodying the Air Force's core values and the ideals of our Nation: Service before self, integrity first, and excellence in all we do. Although, his accomplishments have never overshadowed his humility. To this day, he wears hidden in his flight cap the insignia of the first rank he held in the military as a constant reminder of where he started.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski is an exemplary leader, and I commend him for his service to the country and his commitment to the Georgia Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 65 on January 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 120 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 121 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

FEBRUARY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Dr. Wendy Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

Dr. Stewart serves as the inaugural interim Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Officer at MiraCosta College where she has worked for more than a decade including her previous role at the college as Dean of Counseling and Student Development. She has spent over 25 years in education, helping to better the lives of students throughout the San Diego region.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stewart has been a fierce student advocate who has helped students access higher education and achieve their goals. Dr. Stewart is a shining example of what an educator should be—kind, dedicated, and passionate—and our region is better for it.

As we conclude Black History Month, I am especially proud to honor Dr. Stewart, an esteemed educator who uses her decades of experience and knowledge to contribute to our unique and beautiful district. Her story, passion to improve the lives of others, and academic achievements are honorable and that is why I am proud to honor Dr. Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS BYRD FOR HIS SUCCESS IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the closing days of Black History Month to recognize a professional golfer from the District of Columbia.

Marcus Byrd picked up his clubs at the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. at the historic Langston Golf Course in Northeast, honing his skills there and at a number of golf courses in nearby Prince George's County. He finished in 2nd place at the Maryland State High School Golf Championship in his freshman year. Shortly after, his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In 2013, he won the Georgia State Junior Championship and colleges began to take notice. Mr. Byrd earned a college golf scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University and quickly became one of the best players on the team. After a standout college career, Mr. Byrd turned professional in 2020. He is currently competing on the Advocaes Professional Golf Association Tour (APGA), which is aimed at increasing diversity in the sport. Mr. Byrd has two wins and five

second place finishes on the APGA since 2021. Tiger Woods awarded Mr. Byrd with the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption into the PGA Tour's Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles earlier this month. Mr. Byrd received an exemption into the PGA Tour's Honda Classic in Florida last week.

While he no longer lives permanently in the District of Columbia, Mr. Byrd returns to the area to make a positive impact on young people. He has given back to the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. by participating in multiple Politics and Pros events and by conducting clinics for young participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Marcus Byrd for his success in professional golf.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JON ASHER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Asher.

As the Executive Director of Colorado's Legal Services, Jon has dedicated his life to helping others and ensuring that Colorado's legal system is accessible to all those who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

I have known and admired Jon for over 40 years. The Colorado legal community will agree that he's not just one of Colorado's greatest legal minds, he's also one of the most selfless.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1971, Jon moved to Greeley, Colorado where he began his legal career as a staff attorney with Colorado Rural Legal Services. Little did Jon know that this was the start of a long career of service.

His talent and intellect were evident to all those who worked with him, and Jon quickly rose through the ranks to become head of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver in 1980—a position he would hold for the next 18 years.

When Colorado's three legal aid societies decided to come together to form one statewide legal aid program in 1999, Jon was the easy choice to run it; and it was then that he became the first Executive Director of the newly formed Colorado Legal Services—a position he has held ever since.

Under Jon's leadership, Colorado Legal Services has become one of the Nation's premier legal aid organizations—with a staff of more than 80 attorneys and 55 paralegals in 13 regional offices across Colorado.

Jon's reputation as a tireless and effective advocate for low-income and disadvantaged individuals in our state is seen in the quality of the work that Colorado Legal Services has done and continues to do to this day.

Throughout his career, Jon has been recognized, both in Colorado and throughout the Nation, for his talent and dedication to providing those who otherwise couldn't afford it with the quality legal representation they deserve. While his professional achievements are far too many to count, those who know Jon will agree that it's not the awards or recognition that drove him throughout his career—it's the thousands of people he's been able to help along the way.

After more than 50 years of dedicating himself to providing top-notch legal assistance to seniors and low-income individuals across our state, Jon announced recently that he plans to retire as the head of Colorado's Legal Services this summer. While there's no doubt that he will certainly be leaving behind some big shoes to fill, the organization he's helped to build from the ground up has never been stronger, and its ongoing success is all but guaranteed thanks to the tireless work that Jon and his colleagues have put into it over the years.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's First Congressional District, I want to express my profound thanks to Jon for all he's done for our state over the years—and his tireless efforts to help so many people along the way. And I want to wish him the very best during his much-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATING CARES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a tremendous asset in the communities I serve. For more than 50 years, CARES has been working to create a caring community committed to strengthening lives and creating positive futures for seniors in Pasco and Hernando counties. CARES serves people from all walks of life through their personal journey of aging and offers a broad spectrum of services and programs to help seniors live as they wish—Independently in their own homes.

CARES In-Home Health delivers assistance to help low-income, frail elders with basic services to ensure they are able to maintain their independence in a safe manner. CARES Senior Centers help elderly individuals stay connected to their world and their community through social activities, computer learning, educational programs, wellness initiatives and recreational activities. Research has shown that remaining active and engaged is positively correlated with living a longer, healthier life and CARES helps to make that a reality for many.

CARES also provides critical respite services through its Adult Day Care programs. Through this initiative, caregivers have the peace of mind of knowing their loved ones are supervised while they take some personal time away from caregiving. And, CARES runs a senior health clinic to serve those who are 55 years and older, low-income, and uninsured. It was my privilege to advocate for this tremendous agency by sponsoring a community budget request to secure \$2.5 million to for CARES to expand its footprint in the area. These funds will be used to purchase land and build an 8,000 square foot "One Stop Senior Center." CARES anticipates promoting quality of life and independence for frail and vulnerable seniors and their families at this center. A safe environment where the lives of senior citizens and their caregivers and families of West/Central Pasco will be enriched by the existence of a "One Stop Senior Center" geared to assist these individuals with in-home and community care to remain living inde-

pendently in their communities and prevent institutional/nursing home placement. Other direct services will include Adult Day Care facility, Case Management to provide information and referrals; mental health counseling and a FREE Health Clinic for non-invasive medical care.

As we celebrate this important milestone in CARES history, we look forward to another 50 years of outstanding service to local seniors throughout our community.

HONORING SAN ANGELO COMMUNITY LEADER JAMES HUFFMAN

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the hard work of San Angelo's very own James Huffman, who is being rightly being recognized with the Texas Southwest Council, Boy Scouts of America's prestigious Distinguished Citizen Award—an annual recognition of those who give freely of their time and talents to improve the quality of life for our community, Nation, and world.

James is an Eagle Scout, a family man, distinguished businessman, and servant to our community. His impact to San Angelo and the greater area cannot be overstated.

He earned his degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University and embarked on a career that led him back to San Angelo in 1984. Later, he earned his CPA certification and opened his own accounting practice.

Through the years, Mr. Huffman has been awarded for his achievements including his 1995 Small Business Administration's San Antonio-District CPA of the Year Award and in 2004 Innovation in Texas Award for his Cross Cut Wood Company from the Texas Railroad Commission.

Mr. Huffman has been very involved in many civic duties in West Texas. He serves, or has served, on the Rawls School of Business Dean's Advisory Council, as a Board member of the Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development, a member of the Sonora Downtown Lion's Club and San Angelo Jaycees, on the board of the San Angelo Area-wide Foundation, and he helped establish the San Angelo Safari Club chapter in 2014 as a board member as well as serving as the Vice President from 2014 to 2021.

In 2011, James joined the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America's Texas Southwest Council, serving on the executive committee and as Chair of the Property Committee.

I am grateful for the impact James has made on our community.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR FIGHTING WILDFIRES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Military Support for Fighting

Wildfires Act” with Representatives PANETTA (D-CA), SCANLON (D-PA), SCHIFF (D-CA), JACOBS (D-CA), and CARBAJAL (D-CA) as original cosponsors.

As California and other western states face increasingly severe and frequent wildfires due to the climate crisis, we need all the help we can get from our federal government. My comprehensive “Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act” would improve the American military’s support for civilian emergency response to wildfires and similar natural disasters. It would also provide permanent Congressional authorization for the California Air National Guard’s “FireGuard” program, in partnership with the U.S. Air Force and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) included provisions from my bill (H.R. 5560) last Congress extending the National Guard’s Fireguard program until 2029; requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to budget for extreme weather events linked to climate change; directing the National Guard to consult with the National Interagency Fire Center when training for domestic emergency response to wildfires; and requiring an updated interagency review of the U.S. Air Force and National Guard’s existing legal authorities to respond to domestic wildfires. The White House Office of Management and Budget last completed such a review in 2004.

The FY2023 NOAA also enacted my bill section authorizing the Department of Defense to transfer excess aircraft to other federal departments for search and rescue or emergency operations related to wildfires. U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) introduced my bill section as the bipartisan “Emergency Aircraft Act of 2022” (S. 4672) last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and other members of the California delegation to advance these remaining reforms included in my “Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act.” As ranking member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I plan to make this a top priority for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT FRED- ERICK LEROY WARNER, JR.

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Frederick LeRoy Warner, Jr., fondly known as Teddy, who was called home to be with his savior in December.

Teddy grew up with his brother in a strong Christian household where he grew his faith with the guidance and nurturing of his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

He was raised in Texas and upon graduation from High School enlisted in the United States Army where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm and was honorably discharged.

After the Army, he earned his degree in Arts in History from the University of Houston but

felt like his duty to his country was not finished.

Ted reenlisted in the Army and joined the 5th Special Forces Group where he fought in three combat deployments in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his valor in Iraq, he earned medals of commendation for his courage and heroism under enemy fire. He returned home safely and finished out his military service in the Texas National Guard where he earned a Master’s Degree in Business in Security Management.

Ted was not only a decorated war veteran, but he was also a beloved missionary to everyone in his life. He understood the urgency of coming to know Jesus Christ and dedicated himself to uplifting others through his faith.

America is the land of the free and home of the brave because of Godly men with a heart for service, like Ted. He lived his life in service to others and will be missed dearly.

May his legacy and memory live on in the hearts of those who loved him and served with him, and may we always remember the sacrifices he made for this great Nation.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN MULRENNAN YOUNG

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Ms. Helen Mulrennan Young of Brandon, Florida, who turned 100 years old on February 27, 2023.

Ms. Young is the youngest sibling of the Mulrennan pioneering family, whose roots in Eastern Hillsborough County date back more than 140 years.

Carrying on her family’s legacy of service, Ms. Young is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon, and of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she serves her community through crochet.

For more than 23 years, Ms. Young has crocheted blankets and hats for those in need, including newborn babies, the homeless, and hospital patients. In 2022, she received the Spirit of Kiwanis Award for her incredible work.

Her life is a testament to the power of faith, family, and community, and she represents the best of Florida’s 15th District. That is why it is a great privilege to wish Ms. Young a very happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING HELICOPTER NOISE IN THE DIS- TRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Helicopter Noise in the District of Columbia Act, which would require all helicopters and rotocraft in the District of Columbia to fly at the maximum altitude permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in D.C., with limited exceptions. The ex-

ceptions would include active law enforcement and rescue operations, transporting the president and vice president and safety.

I hear from D.C. residents almost daily about helicopter noise. Helicopter noise can harm health, quality of life and the structural integrity of homes. In 2019, I led members of the National Capital Region (NCR) in requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study helicopter noise in the NCR. Last year, GAO issued its report. GAO found that there had been nearly 90,000 helicopter flights in the NCR from 2017 to 2019. GAO recommended that the FAA develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with operators in the NCR. The FAA has indicated that it is working on such a mechanism.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2023 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

As we end Black History Month, I’d like to focus on the problem of food insecurity and how it disproportionately hurts Black and Brown families.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world’s wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to

provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. SUZETTE
COWELL'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVE-
MENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month this February, I rise today to recognize the lifetime of work of a precious local champion for the African American community in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio, Ms. Suzette Cowell.

Suzette Cowell is the founding member and CEO of Toledo's Urban Federal Community Development Credit Union. This specialized credit union was created with a vision to help generate economic development and new op-

portunity. Suzette introduced fair credit to neighborhoods which had never experienced either before. In this locale, predatory lenders and financial loan sharks suck the lifeblood out of people and neighborhoods.

With decades of experience in the financial arena, Ms. Cowell is a pioneering leader in Toledo—and has led this credit union into the multi-million-dollar community development institution it is today. This credit institution is a model for financial development and community development across our Nation.

Her insight into the unmet needs and systemic issues that precipitated the founding of this successful credit union are essential to understanding America's history, and our Nation must build up to ensure all our residents are uplifted. No place in America should be absent the credit and credit counseling the Federal Urban Credit Union provides.

I thank Suzette for her astounding faith-filled leadership and opportunity she and her board and colleagues brought to our Toledo community.

SUPPORTING CONGRESSWOMAN
JUDY CHU

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in fervent defense of a great friend and loyal colleague,

Congresswoman JUDY CHU, in light of recent attacks against her character. I consider Congresswoman CHU to be a fearless advocate for her community, a loyal Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a close personal friend.

The disgraceful remarks made by a fellow Member of Congress towards Congresswoman CHU challenging her "loyalty and competence" exemplify the extremes Republicans will go to discredit the credibility of those they disagree with. To insinuate Congresswoman CHU is disloyal to her country is baseless and a blatantly racist attempt to vilify a faithful public servant. Congresswoman CHU's heritage as a proud Chinese American woman is a strength for this legislative body, rather than a danger. It is a somber reminder of the relentless scrutiny individuals of Chinese descent face on a daily basis. The unfortunate reality is these types of attacks on Chinese Americans are not atypical, as grotesque stereotypes perpetuate that Asian Americans are always foreign.

The Republican Conference must hold all of their members accountable and must condemn all xenophobic attacks of all forms. Words matter—and can bring about significant harm to communities of all types. Our country has lived through the impacts of targeting Americans based solely on their country of origin. We must avoid the mistakes of our past and denounce bigotry and racism as it occurs, not channel it into hatred and baseless attacks against our fellow Americans.